

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

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1. Strip-casting machine consisting of two casting rolls (2, 3, 22, 39) arranged parallel to each other, two side plates (4, 24, 42), and a standard (5, 21) for supporting the two casting rolls (2, 3, 33, 39), where the two side plate (4, 24, 42) can be set against the end surfaces of the casting rolls (2, 3, 22, 39), and where each side plate can be replaced by its own side plate changing device, wherein plate changing device is designed as a carrier element (9, 29, 43) for a side plate (4, 24, 42), and in that the carrier element (9, 29, 43) can be shifted downward together with the side plate (4, 24, 42) from a setting position and back upward again.

2. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier element is designed as a support arm (9, 29, 43).

3. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier element (9, 29, 43) can be shifted together with the side plate in a plane a certain distance away from the end surfaces of the casting rolls (2, 3, 22, 39).

4. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier element (9, 29, 43) can be shifted together with the side plate in a plane essentially parallel to the end surfaces of the casting rolls.

5. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein, in a first step, the carrier element (9, 29, 43) shifts the side plate (4, 24, 42) in a direction essentially parallel to the casting rolls (2, 3, 22, 39) and away from the end surface of the casting rolls.

6. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 5, wherein, in a second step, the carrier element (9, 29, 43) shifts the side plate (4, 24, 42) vertically (13, 20).

7. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 5, wherein, in a second step, the carrier element (9, 29, 43) shifts the side plate (4, 24, 42) around a swivel axis (11) or along a curve.

8. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 5, wherein the carrier element (9, 29, 43) shifts the side plate (4, 24, 42) in an essentially horizontal (14, 14') direction.

9. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 8, wherein the horizontal shifting (14, 14') of the side plate (4, 24, 42) takes place along a horizontal displacement path (46), which lies approximately on a plane (49) underneath the bearing points of the casting rolls (2, 3, 22, 39).

10. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 9, wherein the horizontal displacement path (46) leads the side plate (42) to a side plate changing station.

11. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the side plate (4, 24, 42) can be shifted downward between the bearing journals of the casting rolls (2, 3, 22, 39), which possibly have been moved a certain distance apart.

12. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein a setting device (27) moves the side plate (24) between the setting position and the casting position by means of piston-cylinder units (30).

13. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 12, wherein the setting device (27) is mounted on the standard (21) and can be connected to and disconnected from the side plate (24) while the plate is in the setting position.

14. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the side plate (24, 42) remains connected to the support arm (29, 43) while the plate is in the casting position.

15. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the side plate (24) can be shifted downward together with the setting device (27).

16. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 15, wherein the setting device (27) is centered on the standard (21) when the side plate (24) is in the setting position, and in that the standard (21) absorbs the setting force (Figure 3) while the side plate (24) is being set.

17. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the side plate (24) can be shifted downward between the end surfaces of the roll barrels and the standard (21) (Figures 2, 3).

18. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the support arm (43) consists of a vertical and a horizontal carrier (44), and in that the horizontal carrier (44) is connected to a stroke device (45).

19. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the horizontal displacement path (46) is provided with a cable drag chain (48) for the supply lines of the side plates.

20. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the side plates (60) are provided with electromagnetic coils (61, 61') for generating an electromagnetic field to seal the gap.

21. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein casting rolls (22) with barrels of different widths can be accommodated by the

use of intermediate pieces (32), which can be inserted between the side plate (24) and the setting device (27) (Figure 3).

22. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein two side plate changing devices (40, 41) are provided on each side of the casting rolls (2, 3, 22, 39), where the worn-out side plate (4, 24, 42) can be carried away by the one device (arrow 14) while the new side plate can be brought up by the other (arrow 14').

A, 23. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the side plates (42, 42') can be moved by the support arm (43) from the setting position in an inert gas-filled chamber (50) through a closable opening (50) and into a transfer lock chamber (52, 52') (Figures 4, 5).

24. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 23, wherein the side plate (42) can be removed from the transfer lock chamber (52, 52') as a result of relative motion between the side plate changing device (40, 41) the transfer lock chamber (52, 52') and then brought by means of a transport device (55) to and back from a side plate holding chamber (Figures 4, 5).

25. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the side plate (70) is provided with a heating device (71), the supply line (73) of which remains connected to the heating medium during the shift in position (Figure 7).

26. Strip-casting machine according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier element, the support arm (9), or the setting device (27) is designed to accept connectable and disconnectable feed lines for coolants, for electrical or hydraulic energy, or for other media such as inert gas or to accept measurement and control lines for the side part.